



U.S. Representative **MIKE DOYLE**



Senior Issues Newsletter – 2001
Update For Those Who Care For and About Senior Issues



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Friends:

The United States and the American people have experienced a year in our history like no other. As 2001 comes to a close, we reflect upon the moments of this year and remember the strength of our nation and the resolve of the American people.

In times of national tragedy, Americans have always come together and faced adversity squarely. On this occasion, we are once again showing the world what it means to be American. We have made a solemn pledge to defend our land, our families and our freedom. America will recover from these cowardly acts of terrorism, and we will bring justice to those who tried to destroy the American way of life.

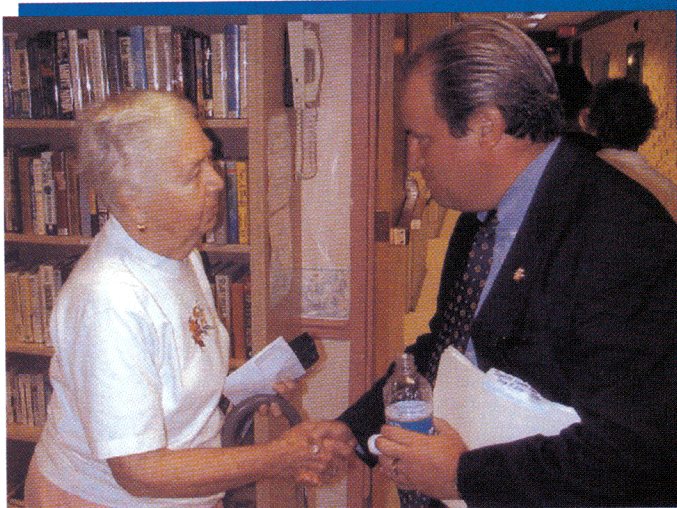
Since September 11th, Congress has been addressing the war on terrorism, homeland security, and our nation's economy. In addition to these matters that require immediate attention, Congress has also discussed some issues that could affect you or your loved ones. I am sending this newsletter to provide you an update on these matters.

In difficult times like these, it is even more important to me that I be able to hear from you. If you have any questions related to the content of this newsletter or any other matter please do not hesitate to contact one of my offices. The addresses, phone numbers, Email address and website are listed on the back of this newsletter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I wish you all the best, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Mike



Rep. Doyle talks to a resident at Baptist Homes of Western Pennsylvania in Mt. Lebanon after discussing healthcare issues to a group of 150 residents and staff.

Unsolicited Mail, Telemarketing and Email: Where To Go To “Just Say No”



There is a way that you can cut down on the number of unsolicited mailings, calls and Emails you receive by learning where to go to “just say no!”

The credit bureaus offer a toll-free number that enables you to “opt-out” of having pre-approved credit offers sent to you for two years. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT for more information.

To have your name deleted from many direct mail or telemarketing lists, write a letter to the following addresses asking that your name be removed from their marketing lists:

For Direct Mail: Direct Marketing; Mail Preference Service; PO Box 9008; Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.

For Telemarketing: Direct Marketing; Telephone Preference Service; PO Box 9014; Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014.

To obtain more information on this, visit the Federal Trade Commission at the following website:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/optoutalrt.htm>

Legislative Update

Social Security COLA Increase: As I am sure you are already aware, the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for 2002 will be 2.6%. This means that the average monthly benefit for retirees will go from \$852 to \$874. I feel that seniors need more than what the COLA currently provides which is why I have cosponsored legislation that would give you more each year. The Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act of 2001, H.R. 2035, would change the way the COLA is calculated to account for the increases in expenditures which are typical for individuals age 62 and older.

Medical Coverage: Currently, 6.6 million Americans over the age of 65 report some level of vision impairment. Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover the vision rehabilitation services that teach seniors who suffer from permanent vision impairment how to continue living independently with this loss. To correct this problem, I have cosponsored the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Services Act of 2001, H.R. 2484, which would reimburse, under Medicare Part B, all vision rehabilitation services including those services provided at home.

Railroad Retirees: There is a large population of railroad retirees and spouses in Western Pennsylvania, so you may be interested in the progress of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors Improvement Act, H.R. 1140. This bill passed the House on July 31, 2001, by a vote of 384-33, and a similar version passed in the Senate on December 5, 2001, by a vote of 90-9. I supported this bill because it would extend a needed benefit to increase payments to widows and widowers of railroad workers; it would shorten the time that an employee must work before being eligible for full retirement benefits; and it would also reform the current structure of the Railroad Retirement system to allow for equity investments which would update and strengthen the retirement plan.

READ THIS IF YOU HAVE BEEN DROPPED BY YOUR MEDICARE PLAN

More than 536,000 Medicare beneficiaries have been dropped by their health plans for 2002. If you or someone you know were one of these individuals, please read the information below:

The annual election period for deciding what to do—join another plan or return to traditional Medicare—is November 1 through December 31.

For help on your options, call the Medicare hotline at 1-800-633-4227 or go to <http://www.medicare.gov> and click on "Medicare Health Plan Compare," which gives you details of any plan in Western Pennsylvania.



Rep. Doyle listens to a constituent while visiting the McKeesport Senior Center to discuss legislation of interest to senior citizens.

OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION:

133 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
p: (202) 225-2135 f: (202) 225-3084
Email: rep.doyle@mail.house.gov Website: <http://www.house.gov/doyle>

CONSTITUENT SERVICES:

627 Lyse Blvd. McKeesport, PA 15132 p: (412) 664-4049 f: (412) 664-4053	11 Duff Road Penn Hills, PA 15235 p: (412) 241-6055 f: (412) 241-6820
200 Lebanon Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15228 p: (412) 343-4001 (8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wed.)	Boyd Community Center 1220 Powers Run Road O'Hara, PA 15215 (open 1st and 3rd Friday of the month; 9 am - 12 pm)

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House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business



Mike Doyle

M.C.
Presorted Standard
W/S Carrier Route